

## How to Participate

Communities with populations under 10,000 are eligible to participate in a Community Review. The first step is to complete an application, which is available from:

### **The Association of Idaho Cities**

**3314 Grace Street**

**Boise, Idaho 83703**

**800-334-8594**

**[www.idahocities.org](http://www.idahocities.org)**

*Click on "Idaho Community Review."*

Your community must agree to accept the following responsibilities to ensure the success of the review:

- Arrange for large and small group meeting sites throughout the review with community leaders and citizens.
- Appoint a home team leader for each of the three focus areas you identify who is willing to work with the visiting team leaders to plan and coordinate the community review.
- Arrange community tours and meeting agendas in the three focus areas you identify.
- Pay for group transportation during the community tours and all team meals (many communities have partnered with school districts and civic groups to share transportation and meal costs).
- Make lodging reservations for the visiting team.
- Publicize the community review to maximize community participation.
- Assist with survey data collection prior to the community review.
- Provide one or two individuals during the review to assist with data entry.

## Information Contacts

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*Need more information?*

*Go to [www.idahocities.org](http://www.idahocities.org).*

*Click on "Idaho Community Review."*



Photos courtesy of the Idaho Department of Commerce and the Idaho Association of Cities

# Idaho Rural Community Review

*A Community Visitation  
and Assessment Program*



*Sponsored and Offered in Partnership by:*

**Association of Idaho Cities**

**Idaho Rural Partnership**

**Idaho Department of Commerce**

**U.S. Department of Housing  
& Urban Development**

**University of Idaho Extension System**

**Idaho Housing & Finance Association**

**Boise State University**

**Mountain States Group**

## Purpose

*The purpose of a Community Review is to assess and increase the vitality and wealth of Idaho communities with populations under 10,000.*

*A Community Review* is an interactive process based on the idea that visitors to a community can offer a fresh perspective and make observations by listening to community members and touring the community from



an outside perspective. Participating in a community review allows a community to see itself

through the eyes of an objective observer. The success of a community review requires a significant degree of commitment and participation on the part of the community.

*Community is a process, a condition, and a state of being in which people are working for their own futures and the future of their town. Community vitality means not only jobs and income, but also resiliency and the capacity to respond to both negative and positive change. Community wealth refers to the assets of the community, including all types of infrastructure, crime rates, climate, scenery, environmental quality, individual skills and community spirit.*

## How it Works

- A Visiting Team of 15-25 diverse leaders and experts from across the state tours and observes a community from a perspective based on a wide range of indicators and focus areas that have been identified by the community.
- The Visiting Team listens to community leaders and citizens, fostering an open dialogue about the community's future.
- The Visiting Team uses its experience in community and economic development to offer suggestions and strategies to increase the community's health, wealth, and vitality through a series of interactive meetings. A follow-up report highlights specific recommendations and provides referrals to specific resources.
- The Visiting Team prepares an oral presentation and a written report for community leaders and citizens. The report includes specific observations from their visit, offers suggestions for action, and provides resources to help accomplish them.

*For applications and other information on-line, go to [www.idahocities.org](http://www.idahocities.org) and click on "Idaho Community Review."*

## Focus Areas

During the review process, the Visiting Team is divided into three smaller groups, each with a particular area of focus, i.e., local economy, infrastructure, housing, community design & identity, land use planning, education, transportation, communication, health care, natural resources, arts, historic, and recreation resources, seniors & youth, and civic life & community involvement.

## Planning the Visit

The following is a draft schedule of a typical two-day Community Review process:

### DAY 1

- |                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| <b>9:00 a.m.</b>          | Welcome, introductions, and community overview        |
| <b>10:00 a.m.</b>         | Community tours for focus teams                       |
| <b>3:30 p.m.</b>          | Roundtable discussions with community leaders         |
| <b>5:30 p.m.</b>          | Community social networking dinner                    |
| <b>7:00 p.m.</b>          | Roundtable and community discussions with citizens    |
| <b>Throughout the Day</b> | Community input sessions and interviews with citizens |

### DAY 2

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| <b>7:30 a.m.</b> | Breakfast with local service clubs   |
| <b>9:30 a.m.</b> | Visiting team work session to gather final information, develop themes and preliminary resources, and prepare oral and written community reports |
| <b>6:00 p.m.</b> | Facilitated town meeting with community leaders and citizens   |
| <b>8:00 p.m.</b> | Community Review ends  |

